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SUBJECT: ENERGY COMMITTEE ROLE IN OECD LONG- TERM ENERGY STUDY

DEPT. PASS INTERIOR FOR EBEL

REF: A. OECD 05695

B. OECD A-356

1. SUMMARY: SEVERAL ITEMS ON AGENDA OF MARCH 22-23 MEETING OF ENERGY COMMITTEE'S GENERAL WORKING PARTY HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR ROLE ENERGY COMMITTEE WILL PLAY IN DEVELOPING LONG- TERM STUDY ON ENERGY. ACTION REQUESTED: CONSIDERATION OF THE SUGGESTIONS MADE IN PARAS 7 AND 8 BELOW IN DRAWING UP INSTRUCTIONS FOR GWP MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. IN DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSALS FOR CARRYING OUT LONG- TERM ENERGY STUDY, THERE WERE DIFFERENT VIEWS AMONG NATIONAL

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DELEGATIONS ON PROPER ROLE FOR ENERGY COMMITTEE. SOME PROPOSED CENTRAL ROLE IN COORDINATION AND ORIENTATION OF WORK. OTHERS PREFERRED THAT ENERGY COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTE TO STUDY ON SAME BASIS AS OTHER RELEVANT COMMITTEES, WITH GROUP REPRESENTING ALL COMMITTEES WHICH WILL BE INVOLVED IN STUDY PROVIDING BACKUP FOR CONSULTANT AND SECRETARIAT CENTRAL TEAM. (COUNCIL MINUTE LAST AUTUMN WHICH HAD APPROVED IN BROAD TERMS SECRETARY- GENERAL'S PROPOSAL FOR PROGRAM OF WORK CONTAINED COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE.) (SEE OECD DOC. C/ M(72)28, PART II). THOUGH LANGUAGE VAGUE, PERHAPS DELIBERATELY, IT APPEARS TO GRANT ENERGY COMMITTEE SPECIAL ROLE ONLY AS FINAL FILTER FOR REPORT BEFORE SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL.

3. AT LAST MEETING OF ENERGY COMMITTEE IT BECAME CLEAR THAT, CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF COUNCIL MINUTE, BUREAU AND ENERGY SECRETARIAT WISHED TO EXPAND RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMITTEE BY GIVING IT CENTRAL ROLE IN INITIATING STUDY. THIS WAS RESISTED BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING

US, UK, CANADA, AND TO SOME EXTENT JAPAN. THESE EFFORTS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT FULLY REFLECTED IN TENDENTIOUS SUMMARY RECORD OF SESSION (EN(M)73).

4. IN PARTICULAR, PARA 3, IV INDICATES COMMITTEE INSTRUCTED SECRETARIAT TO DRAW UP PLAN OF WORK FOR LONG- TERM ENERGY STUDY FOR CONSIDERATION BY ENERGY COMMITTEE'S GENERAL WORKING PARTY (GWP) AT MARCH MEETING. IN FACT, WHILE THIS WAS VIEW OF SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS INCLUDING US STRESSED URGENCY OF HIRING CONSULTANTS ENVISAGED FOR STUDY SO THAT WORK PLAN COULD BE DRAWN UP BY CONSULTANT AND SECRETARIAT'S CENTRAL TEAM, ALLOWING ALL COMMITTEES INVOLVED TO BEGIN WORK IN INTEGRATED AND TIME- SAVING MANNER. ENERGY DIRECTORATE HAS NEVERTHELESS PREPARED OWN PLAN, DIE/ E/ EN/73.20, THOUGH IT HAS INDICATED IT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO HIGH- LEVEL CONSULTANT FOR SUCH USE AS HE SEES FIT.

5. SUMMARY RECORD ALSO INDICATES THAT ENERGY COMMITTEE SET UP AD HOC WORKING PARTIES ON COAL (WITH COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE), NATURAL GAS (WITH OIL COMMITTEE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE), AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ELECTRICITY. US DELEGATION AGREED AT MEETING THESE

SUBJECTS WOULD BE IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF STUDY BUT ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS AGREED ONLY IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING PARTIES. SECRETARIAT HAS PRODUCED DRAFT MANDATES FOR DISCUSSION AT GWP MEETING ON MARCH 22-23. IT HAS ALSO PRODUCED DRAFT OUTLINES FOR WP REPORTS AND CONVENED ALL THREE GROUPS FOR WEEK OF APRIL 2 (REF A).

6. COMMENT: MISSION HAS SOME SYMPATHY FOR DESIRE OF ENERGY SECRETARIAT AND SOME MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO PUSH WORK FORWARD ON LONG- TERM ENERGY STUDY AND RECOGNIZES THAT CURRENT SITUATION IS DUE IN PART TO UNFORTUNATE DELAY IN RECRUITMENT OF HIGH- LEVEL CONSULTANT. (WE HAVE REPEATEDLY URGED SECRETARIAT AT VARIOUS LEVELS INCLUDING SEC- GEN TO HASTEN DECISION ON CONSULTANTS). NEVERTHELESS, MISSION FAVORS GRANTING ENERGY COMMITTEE MODEST ROLE AT BEST IN INITIATING OVERALL STUDY. OUR VIEW IS BASED IN PART ON UNEVEN QUALITY OF NATIONAL DELEGATIONS, MANY OF WHICH HEADED BY OFFICIALS WHO ARE MIDDLE LEVEL TECHNICIANS RATHER THAN OFFICIALS WHO MAKE OR INFLUENCE IMPORTANT POLICY DECISIONS. WE ALSO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT SUITABILITY OF CURRENT BUREAU TO INITIATE AND SUPERVISE INTEGRATED, POLICY- ORIENTED STUDY. (THIS IS NOT TO SUGGEST THAT ENERGY COMMITTEE COULD NOT PRODUCE VALUABLE RESULTS WITHIN AREAS WHERE IT HAS SPECIAL EXPERTISE).

7. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT US DELEGATION TO MARCH 22-23 MEETING OF GWP BE INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST CORRECTION OF SUMMARY RECORD IN LIGHT OF ABOVE REMARKS. WITH RESPECT TO SECRETARIAT'S PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN, DIE/ E/ EN/73.20, MISSION CONCERNED THAT BUREAU AND SECRETARIAT MIGHT ATTEMPT TO LIMIT CONSULTANT AND CENTRAL TEAM UNDULY BY SUGGESTING THAT PAPER REVISED ON BASIS OF GOVERNMENT VIEWS EXPRESSED AT GWP MEETING MUST BE GIVEN HEAVY WEIGHT. WE SUGGEST THAT US DELEGATE TO MEETING MAKE CLEAR THAT COMMENTS ARE PRELIMINARY AND NOT INTENDED TO BIND CONSULTANT AND CENTRAL TEAM.

8. WASHINGTON SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER IT BELIEVES TIME OPPORTUNE FOR MEETINGS OF AD HOC WORKING PARTIES CONVENED BY SECRETARIAT FOR WEEK OF APRIL 2. IN ABSENCE AGREED WORK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLAN, MEETINGS MIGHT FIND THEMSELVES DEALING WITH PURELY ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS WHICH COULD BE HANDLED AT A LATER TIME OR MAKING FALSE STARTS ON SUBSTANTIVE WORK. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT US DELEGATE BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE AT GWP MEETING, THOUGH SOME FLEXIBILITY APPEARS DESIRABLE IN

EVENT CONVINCING CASE CAN BE DEVELOPED FOR MEETINGS AT
SCHEDULED TIME.

9. PERMANENT DELEGATIONS OF UK, CANADA AND JAPAN
GENERALLY AGREE WITH ANALYSIS THIS CABLE, AND PLAN TO
MAKE SIMILAR SUGGESTIONS TO THEIR CAPITALS.

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